

Palm Sunday 2024
The Glory of the King

Transition: We are taking a two-week break from our study through Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus to focus intently on the story of Jesus presenting Himself as Israel's Messiah-King, the Jews' rejection of Him, His death, and His resurrection. Unquestionably, Jesus' sacrifice for our sin on the cross and His being raised back to life are the most significant moments in all human history. This is why it is important for us to regularly contemplate how Jesus' life and death continues to impact our lives today.

Context: Our passage this week comes from The Gospel of John. John's account of the final week of Jesus' life prior to His dying on the cross includes some stories of Jesus that are not included in any of the other three gospels. For instance, this gospel has less information than the other gospels about Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, but more information about His thinking and motivation for the choices He was making.

Opening Questions:

- When you think of glory, what is the first thing that comes to mind? How do you define it? How do you describe it?
- What is the most glorious thing that you have personally witnessed/experienced? What makes it glorious to you? What impact did/does it have on you?

Scripture/Storying: John 12:12-43

Discipleship Questions:

- How does Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem confirm His identity as Israel's true King? What expectations do you think the people had of their King? When has God not met one of your expectations of Him? What happened and how was it resolved?
- Jesus is obviously a controversial figure. Why is there so much controversy over Him? Why does God/Jesus allow people to have different perceptions/understandings of Him?
- Have you ever had a conversation with someone who had a different perception of Jesus than you? If so, share the story. Were you able to reconcile your differences? If so, how? If not, why not?
- How does Jesus say that He will be glorified (v20-26)? In what way(s) does this glorify Him? What implications does this have for you personally?
- What is Jesus' motivation for going to the cross (v27-36)? Is Jesus' motivation also your motivation? If so, what are some choices that you've made because of it?
- What is causing the tension for those people who say they believe, but are not living like it (v37-43)? Have you ever had this same struggle? What do you do to overcome it?

Prayer time: Pray for Favor Africa, a ministry Providence Church supports.

- Pray for the people who live in Juba, South Sudan as they are facing extremely high temperatures. All schools are closed by the government until further notice because of the heat. As of right now, we do not know the implications on Favor's Gift Homes.
- Pray for the heat to break and schools to reopen.